

[2 March, 2007]

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(b) the States affected due to choked rivers; and

(c) whether Government are providing any guide lines to the States to overcome the choked rivers alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards has identified the major rivers polluted due to discharge of industrial wastewater into the rivers. These river stretches are Nagavalli and Musi in Andhra Pradesh; Yamuna in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh; Subarnarekha in Jharkhand; Sabarmati, Amalkheri, Daman-Ganga, Kolak and Par in Gujarat; Ghaggar in Punjab and Haryana; Markanda in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, Bhadra and Kali in Karnataka; Tapi in Madhya Pradesh; Chambal in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; Godavari, Ulhas, Wardha, Bhatsa, Patalganga, Krishna and Nira in Maharashtra, Brahmani in Orissa, Sutluj and Bias in Punjab; Palar, Adyar, Coovum, Tambiraparani and Noyyal in Tamilnadu; Hindan, Western Kali, Eastern Kali, Gomti and Ganga in Uttar Pradesh and Damodar in West Bengal.

(c) The industrial pollution is tackled at source through the implementation of legal provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Central Pollution control Board has identified 1204 grossly polluting industries, each discharging effluent with Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) load more than 100 Kg/day, located along major rivers of India. Out of which 775 units are complying with the discharge standards, 314 units are closed and 115 units are not complying with the standards. Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions to State Pollution Control Boards under Section 18 1 (b) of Water Act, 1974 for taking appropriate legal actions against these defaulting units.

Declining population of endangered species

472. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the highest legal protections the population of some endangered species is declining sharply;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of wildlife is a natural phenomenon. There are no reports to indicate continuous sharp decline in the population of endangered species in general. However, over the last few years, sharp decline in the population of three species of vultures i.e. White-backed vulture, Slender billed vulture and Long billed vulture have been reported.

(c) It had been the constant endeavour of the Central and State Governments to develop the habitat of the wildlife so that a viable population of wildlife is maintained. Apart from the implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, India is also a signatory to many International Conventions aiming at the conservation of wildlife. Financial and technical assistance for habitat improvement, strengthening of infrastructure, communication systems, census, research, eco development, etc. are also provided to the State Governments for the conservation of wildlife under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;—"Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger", and "Project Elephant".

Preservation of forest cover and environment

473. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vision of late Prime Minister-Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi advocating the need to have sanctuaries, national parks and tiger reserves, helping in regenerating forest cover in the country, being adequately fulfilled;

(b) if so, whether Government are following this ideology for supporting the cause of preserving forest cover and the environment being strictly adhered to; and

(c) if so, why the six tiger reserves situated within 250 kilometer of Nagpur, have been ignored and whether the funds allotted towards their upkeep settlement of villages inside or on the periphery of these tiger reserves, sanctuaries, etc. been properly utilized?